

What is being done to meet Synar targets?

- Since 2000, the Indiana Tobacco Retailer Inspection Program (TRIP) has been conducting unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers to enforce youth tobacco access laws all over Indiana. TRIP is a joint project of Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) and the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. This year, an average of 530 inspections are being conducted per month.
- Numerous local enforcement projects are being carried out through ITPC community projects, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana Local Coordinating Councils, and through local health departments and other health-promoting organizations.
- The Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission State Excise Police are issuing tickets to both clerks for sale of tobacco products to youth and underage youth for tobacco possession.
- Indiana schools are enforcing policies prohibiting tobacco use.

What can you do to help?

- Participate as an adult monitor during the Synar study.⁵
- Become active on Local Coordinating Councils (LCC's) and through Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) community programs.⁶
- Encourage Local Coordinating Councils to advocate for increased local enforcement of youth tobacco access laws and education of tobacco retailers.
- Encourage your school to emphasize education on tobacco as a drug and on the illegality of possessing tobacco products and of selling tobacco products to persons under age 18.
- Contact Major Steve Anderson⁷ of the Indiana State Excise Police to receive an information packet on how to mobilize to conduct tobacco enforcement inspections in your community.
- Assist in other ways to educate retailers about youth tobacco access laws and to enlist community support for addressing tobacco use by youngsters.

For more information or to find out how you can help Indiana continue to meet Synar goals, contact:

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⁵ Contact Lucy Swalls, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, at 317-233-3789.

⁶ LCC Contact: Bob Snyder, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, at 317-232-1289; ITPC Contact: Anita Gaillard: 317-234-1784.

⁷ Contact Major Anderson at 317-232-2456.



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Indiana's Synar Study: Why It's Important

Division of Mental Health and Addiction
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Did You Know That...

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

- Approximately 80% of adult smokers started smoking before age 18.
- Every day, nearly 6,000 young people under 18 try their first cigarette, and over 3,000 become daily smokers.
- Teens who smoke are three times more likely than non-smokers to use alcohol, eight times more likely to use marijuana, and 22 times more likely to use cocaine; smoking is also associated with other risky behaviors, such as fighting and unprotected sex.
- Smoking is associated with poor overall health and many adverse health and school-performance effects in young people.
- The younger people start smoking cigarettes, the more likely they are to become strongly addicted to nicotine.
- More than 6.4 million children living today will die prematurely from tobacco-related causes.

According to Indiana law,

- It is illegal for a person under 18 to purchase, accept for personal use or possess tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, etc., and
- It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.¹

According to other sources,

- Indiana youth cigarette use remains above national averages for 8th, 10th & 12th graders on most measures.²
- Indiana has the fourth highest adult smoking rate in the United States: 26.7%.³

What is the Synar Study?

In 1992, Congress passed the Synar Amendment as Section 1926 of the Public Health Service Act of 1992. The Synar Amendment requires that recipients of the federal SAPT⁴ block grant establish laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under age 18 and to progressively increase tobacco retailer adherence to these laws. The SAPT block grant pays for substance abuse treatment and prevention services all over Indiana. Since 1996, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Mental Health and Addiction has administered the conduct of an annual Synar study to evaluate tobacco retailer adherence to youth tobacco access laws throughout the State through unannounced inspections carried out by Indiana State Excise Police and youth and adult participants. In 1996, Indiana's tobacco retailer noncompliance rate was measured at 41.9%.

Beginning in 2002 and every year thereafter, for as long as the Synar Amendment is in place, a stipulation of receiving the SAPT block grant is to find that no more than 20% of Indiana vendors are willing to sell tobacco products to youth under age 18. This year and last year, the study consisted of inspecting 1100 randomly chosen tobacco retailers through teams of Excise Police officers and trained adult monitors and youth aged 14, 15 and 16. In 2002, the Synar study found that nearly one in five (19.35% noncompliance rate) Indiana tobacco retailers were still willing to sell tobacco products to underage youth. Although, to date, Indiana has met its federally-established Synar targets, the rate of tobacco sales to youth is still a concern.



What Happens if Indiana Fails to Meet the 20% Synar Noncompliance Target Next Year?

- The penalty for not meeting our 2003 target is 40% of the SAPT block grant, or more than \$13.3 million.
- To date, 14 states, three Territories, and the District of Columbia have been penalized for not meeting their Synar targets. At least one State has been penalized twice.
- So far, Congress has utilized an alternative penalty in place of the 40% penalty, but the alternative has to be passed by Congress each year. The alternative penalty requires an investment into youth tobacco access law enforcement of 1% of the SAPT block grant total for every point by which a State, Territory or the D.C. misses their federally-established Synar target.



What Does Indiana Have to Lose?

In SFY 2001, the SAPT block grant provided an investment of

- Over \$23.77 million for substance abuse treatment services for nearly 19,500 individuals, both children and adults, through a network of 25 managed care providers across the State, and
- Over \$7.05 million for the Afternoon Rocks after-school programs addressing alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention for close to 14,750 11- through 14-year-old young people across Indiana.

Loss of over \$13 million of these funds would severely decrease the availability of substance abuse programs and services to Indiana citizens of all ages.

¹ IC 35-46-1-10 and 10.2

² Indiana Prevention Resource Center 2002 Prevalence Statistics, *Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Use By Indiana Children and Adolescents*.

³ 2002 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

⁴ Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)